

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12, and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) and claims 3-5, 9-11, 14-26, and 36-39 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 27-34 have been allowed. Claim 35 is objected to but otherwise allowable. Claims 1, 7, 14, and 22 have been amended.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and following remarks.

SECTION 102(b) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12, and 13 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,166,085 to Wakai, et al. ("Wakai" or the "Wakai Reference"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the above amendments and for the reasons provided below.

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite that, "one or more of the openings and the metal layer are provided along substantially the whole length of at least either one of the scanning electrode wiring and the signal electrode wiring." Referring to FIGs. 1 and 3, the opening 11a is provided along the whole length of the signal electrode 6.

This feature was allowed in claims 27-29, and, therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that, claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12, and 13 are not anticipated or made obvious by the Wakai reference and further, satisfy all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq., especially § 102(b). Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12, and 13 are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

35 USC § 103(a) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 14-17, 19-22, and 26 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakai; claims 5, 11, 18, and 23-25 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakai in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,446,569 to Iwai, et al. ("Iwai" or the "Iwai Reference"); and claims 36-39 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakai in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,188,516 to Kim ("Kim" or the "Kim Reference"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the above amendments and for the reasons provided below.

Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 14-17, 19-22, and 26

Independent claims 14 and 22 have been amended to recite that, "one or more of the openings and the metal layer are provided along substantially the whole length of at least either one of the scanning electrode wiring and the signal electrode wiring." Referring to FIGs. 1 and 3, the opening 11a is provided along the whole length of the signal electrode 6.

This feature was allowed in claims 27-29, and, therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that, claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 14-17, 19-22, and 26 are not made obvious by the Wakai reference and further, satisfy all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq., especially § 103(a). Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 14-17, 19-22, and 26 are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Claims 5, 11, 18, and 23-25

Nor can the Iwai reference make up for the deficiencies of the Wakai reference in view of the amendments to the claims. The Iwai reference does not teach providing openings at predetermined areas at least on one or both of the scanning electrode wiring and the signal electrode wiring, wherein a metal layer contacts the scanning

electrode wiring and/or the signal electrode wiring through the opening, and wherein one or more of the openings and the metal layer are provided along substantially the whole length of at least either one of the scanning electrode wiring and the signal electrode wiring. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully assert that claims 5, 11, 18, and 23-25 are allowable.

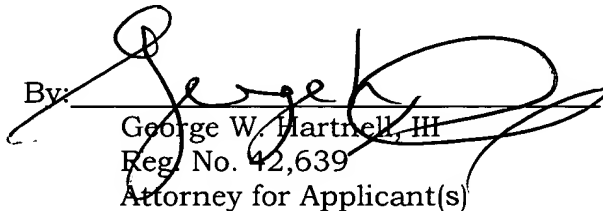
Claims 36-39

Nor can the Kim reference make up for the deficiencies of the Wakai reference. The Kim reference does not teach providing openings at predetermined areas on one or both of the scanning electrode wiring and the signal electrode wiring, wherein a metal layer contacts the scanning electrode wiring and/or the signal electrode wiring through the opening, and wherein one or more of the openings and the metal layer are provided along substantially the whole length of at least either one of the scanning electrode wiring and the signal electrode wiring. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully assert that claims 36-39 are allowable.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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